

Cherry Riley  
BoA LYN Chair

Hello, I am the chair of Bradford on Avon LYN and here to give you a review of the young people's views on how it's running.

Before the community led model came into place, I was chair of the Youth Advisory Group; a group similar to the LYN. This has offered me previous experience in chairing meetings, which has been to my advantage.

I already knew our Community Youth Officer, Emma, which has made it easier to engage with, for myself and other young people who already have a built relationship with her. Working with this model and engaging with young people who are not familiar with Emma, myself and others in the LYN, can be more challenging, as that trusted relationship has not been previously created.

At one of the recent AB meetings, the young people of our LYN and I spoke about the positives and negatives of the LYN, which I will read out:

### **Positive aspects:**

- ◆ As young people, we feel that the group is **well established** and it gives **young people** the chance to **say** what they want in their local area.
- ◆ Individuals within the meetings are **keen to put their views across** to the group and many people **attend** the meetings, along with being **engaged** and **participating in discussion**.
- ◆ We believe that more people are becoming involved and this is having a **positive impact**, as it is a **valuable source for the community to rely on**, for implementing positive activities for young people.

### **Negative aspects:**

- We also have a few negative points that we aspire to improve. We think that people are **frequently argumentative** and the group talk over each other and **don't respect the chairs**. Some people have mentioned to us that they feel the meetings run on too long and **young people's voices** are **not** listened to. We also feel that there are **too many people** within

the group from the same area and we suggest managing the representatives.

- To move forward, we have discussed, **recruiting more young people** and including possible **training for the LYN** members. This would work well especially with the grant application, scoring process. We also recommend having **one** representative from each area.
  
- With all these points, we feel that we can continue the success of the LYN and look forward to progressing further in the development of implementing positive activities for young people.

**Advice:**      **Based on what I have experienced**

- ◆ Allow young people time to talk
- ◆ Remember the focus of the group is young people
- ◆ Don't become too political
- ◆ Show respect to each other (including their opinions) and the Chair(s)
- ◆ Respect the Community Youth Officer
- ◆ **Don't target certain people within the group**
- ◆ Do not shout or talk at others